

Application No. 09/831,516
Amendment dated: February 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

b.) Remarks

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 6-10 are withdrawn from consideration.

Turning now to the merits, Applicant asserts that amended independent Claim 1 is patentable over WO 85/03962 in view of Dunning et al (3,349,035) or Appel (4,375,448). None of the cited publications discloses a separate moistening belt with specifically claimed sorption properties. The sorption capacity of the moistening belt is such that it is lower than the sorption capacity of the areas of the layer pressed between the moistening belt and the protrusions of the profiling belt. At the same time, the sorption capacity of the moistening belt is higher than that of the portions of the layer not pressed between the protrusions and the moistening belt. Therefore, moistening of the layer of fibers occurs selectively in the areas pressed between the protrusions and the moistening belt. None of the cited publications discloses or teaches or suggests selective moistening of a layer of fibers by using a separate moistening belt with the claimed sorption properties and pressing only the selected areas of the layer of fibers between the moistening belt and the protrusions of the profiling belt. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and amended independent Claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2-5 depend off now allowable Claim 1 and therefore are allowable. Allowance of dependent Claims 2-5 is respectfully requested.

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Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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